

ADVERTISEMENT

7 results for: arbitrary

(Browse Nearby Entries)

Sponsored Links



[A Bankruptcy Information](#)

Professional bankruptcy arbitration We offer financial solutions  
[BankruptcyInfoChicago.com](#)

[10 Rules Losing Belly Fat](#)

Lose 9 lbs every 11 Days with these 10 Idiot Proof Rules of Fat Loss.  
[www.FatLoss4Idiots.com](#)

Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1) - [Cite This Source](#) - [Share This](#)

ar·bi·trar·y   [ahr-bi-trer-ee] [Pronunciation Key](#) - [Show IPA Pronunciation](#)

adjective, noun, plural -trar·ies.

-adjective


1. subject to individual will or judgment without restriction; contingent solely upon one's discretion: *an arbitrary decision.*
2. decided by a judge or arbiter rather than by a law or statute.
3. having unlimited power; uncontrolled or unrestricted by law; despotic; tyrannical: *an arbitrary government.*
4. capricious; unreasonable; unsupported: *an arbitrary demand for payment.*
5. *Mathematics.* undetermined; not assigned a specific value: *an arbitrary constant.*

-noun

6. *arbitraries, Printing.* (in Britain) [PECULIAR](#) (def. 9).

[Origin: 1400-50; late ME < L *arbitrarius* uncertain (i.e., depending on an arbiter's decision). See [ARBITER](#), [-ARY](#)]

—Related forms

ar·bi·trar·i·ly   [ahr-bi-trer-uh-lee, ahr-bi-trair-] [Pronunciation Key](#) -

[Show IPA Pronunciation](#), adverb

ar·bi·trar·i·ness, noun

Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1)

Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2006.

[American Heritage Dictionary](#) - [Cite This Source](#) - [Share This](#)

ar·bi·trar·y   (är'bī-trēr'ē) [Pronunciation Key](#)

adj.

1. Determined by chance, whim, or impulse, and not by necessity, reason, or principle: *stopped at the first motel we passed, an arbitrary choice.*

**PAYING TOO MUCH FOR A**

ZIP code  park at night

YES NO

Do you currently have auto ins

YES NO

Have you had a U.S. driver's li

3 years? YES NO

**GET QUOTE**

ADVERTISEMENT

Related Ads:

- Arbitrary Execution
- Unlocking Code
- Arbitrary Precision
- Arbitrary Waveform
- Vulnerability Scanner
- Arbitrary Arrest

Free download! Get instant dictionary, thesaurus, and encyclopedia access with our Firefox browser tools.


**Master of Arts in Education**

- Curriculum and Instruction - Computer Education
- Curriculum and Instruction - English as a Second Language
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Teacher Education
- Secondary Teacher Education
- Cross-Categorical Special Education

University of Phoenix

**LEARN MORE**

ONLINE



2. Based on or subject to individual judgment or preference: *The diet imposes overall calorie limits, but daily menus are arbitrary.*
3. Established by a court or judge rather than by a specific law or statute: *an arbitrary penalty.*
4. Not limited by law; despotic: *the arbitrary rule of a dictator.*

[Middle English *arbitrarie*, from Latin *arbitrarius*, from *arbiter*, *arbitr-*, *arbiter*; see *arbiter*.]

ar'bi·trar'i·ly (-trâr'ə-lē) *adv.*, ar'bi·trar'i·ness *n.*

**Synonyms:** These adjectives mean determined by or arising from whim or caprice rather than judgment or reason: *an arbitrary decision; a capricious refusal; a whimsical remark.*

[\(Download Now or Buy the Book\)](#)

*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*  
Copyright © 2006 by Houghton Mifflin Company.  
Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

[Online Etymology Dictionary - Cite This Source - Share This](#)  
**arbitrary**

1424 (in *arbitrament*), "deciding by one's own discretion," from *L. arbitrarius*, from *arbiter* (see *arbiter*). The original meaning gradually descended to "capricious" (1646) and "despotic" (1642).

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2001 Douglas Harper

[WordNet - Cite This Source - Share This](#)  
**arbitrary**

**adjective**

based on or subject to individual discretion or preference or sometimes impulse or caprice; "an arbitrary decision"; "the arbitrary rule of a dictator"; "an arbitrary penalty"; "of arbitrary size and shape"; "an arbitrary choice"; "arbitrary division of the group into halves" [ant: *nonarbitrary*]

WordNet® 3.0, © 2006 by Princeton University.

[Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary \(Beta Version\) - Cite This Source - Share This](#)  
**arbitrary** ['a: bitrəri] *adjective*

not decided by rules or laws but by a person's own opinion

Example: *He made a rather arbitrary decision to close the local cinema without consulting other people.*

<b>Arabic:</b> اعتباطي، تحكّمي	<b>Japanese:</b> 随意の
<b>Chinese (Simplified):</b> 任意的	<b>Korean:</b> 제멋대로의, 독단적인
<b>Chinese (Traditional):</b> 武斷的, 任意的	<b>Latvian:</b> patvaļīgs
<b>Czech:</b> svévolný	<b>Lithuanian:</b> savavališkas
<b>Danish:</b> vilkårlig; arbitrær	<b>Norwegian:</b> vilkårlig; egenrådlig
<b>Dutch:</b> willekeurig	<b>Polish:</b> arbitralny
<b>Estonian:</b> omavõlliline	<b>Portuguese (Brazil):</b> arbitrário
<b>Finnish:</b> mielivaltainen	<b>Portuguese (Portugal):</b> arbitrário
<b>French:</b> arbitraire	
<b>German:</b> willkürlich	

#### ADVERTISEMENT

The perfect gift for word lovers - [click here for Dictionary.com Premium Gift Subscriptions!](#)



#### ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES

Associate of Arts in Business  
Associate of Arts in Health Care Administration  
Associate of Arts in Information Technology

#### BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Bachelor of Science in Business / Management  
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Health Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Management

#### MASTER'S DEGREES

Master of Business Administration  
Master of Arts in Education  
Master of Information Systems

[LEARN MORE](#)

#### ADVERTISEMENT

[About Dictionary.com](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Link to Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 2008, Lexico Publishing Group, LLC. All rights reserved.

<i>Greek:</i> αὐθαίρετος	<i>Romanian:</i> arbitrar
<i>Hungarian:</i> önkényes	<i>Russian:</i> произвольный
<i>Icelandic:</i> geðþóttalegur, geðþóttá-	<i>Slovak:</i> svojvol'ný
<i>Indonesian:</i> keputusan sendiri	<i>Slovenian:</i> samovoljen
<i>Italian:</i> arbitrario	<i>Spanish:</i> arbitrario
	<i>Swedish:</i> godtycklig, egenmäktig
	<i>Turkish:</i> keyfi

Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary (Beta Version), © 2000–2006 K Dictionaries Ltd.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law – [Cite This Source](#) – [Share This](#)

Main Entry: **ar·bi·trary**

Pronunciation: ˈär-bē-ˈtrēr-ē

Function: *adjective*

1 : depending on individual discretion (as of a judge) and not fixed by standards, rules, or law <the manner of punishment is *arbitrary*>

2 a : not restrained or limited in the exercise of power <an *arbitrary* government> b : marked by or resulting from the unrestrained exercise of power <protection from *arbitrary* arrest and detention>

3 a : based on preference, bias, prejudice, or convenience rather than on reason or fact <an *arbitrary* standard> <different provisions for the married and the unmarried were irrational and *arbitrary* —K. A. Cohen> b : existing or coming about seemingly at random or by chance or as an unreasonable act of individual will without regard for facts or applicable law —often used in the phrase *arbitrary and capricious* <an agency finding or conclusion of lack of evidence would be *arbitrary* and capricious if the record afforded no substantial basis for such a finding —*Irvin v. Hobby*, 131 Federal Reporter Supp. 851 (1955)>

NOTE: Under section 706 of the Administrative Procedure Act, a court shall set aside an agency's action, findings, or conclusions determined upon review to be arbitrary.

—ar·bi·trar·i·ly /ˈär-bē-ˈtrēr-ē-lē/ *adverb* —ar·bi·trar·i·ness

/ˈär-bē-ˈtrēr-ē-nēs/ *noun*

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law, © 1996 Merriam-Webster, Inc.

On-line Medical Dictionary – [Cite This Source](#) – [Share This](#)

**arbitrary**

arbitrary: in CancerWEB's On-line Medical Dictionary

On-line Medical Dictionary, © 1997–98 Academic Medical Publishing & CancerWEB

View results from: [Dictionary](#) | [Thesaurus](#) | [Encyclopedia](#) | [All Reference](#) | [the Web](#)

Share This:      

## Master of Arts in Education

- Curriculum and Instruction - Computer Education
- Curriculum and Instruction - English as a Second Language
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Teacher Education
- Secondary Teacher Education
- Cross-Categorical Special Education

University of Phoenix®





ADVERTISEMENT

Perform a new search, or try your search for "arbitrary" at:

- \* [Amazon.com](#) - Shop for books, music and more
- \* [Reference.com](#) - Encyclopedia Search
- \* [Reference.com](#) - Web Search powered by Google
- \* [Thesaurus.com](#) - Search for synonyms and antonyms

Get [CleverKeys](#) and look up words from any program - FREE download! *From the makers of Dictionary.com*